

The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)
- * or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

From the President

As we end the year, I've got to ask a few questions. What did we do this year that was memorable? Are there things we could/should do better next year? Are you satisfied with our meeting location? And what would you like to see that is different? I'll arm you now so you're ready at the meeting on Tuesday.

This was indeed a memorable year. We had a number of really good meeting programs. The problem, though, is that the same volunteers keep standing up to do the work to prepare and deliver them. Many of you remember me needing you to join in – so please do. Our hamfest banquet has been growing the past few years, and this year's banquet continued in that direction with 115 attendees. Our speaker delivered a quite inspirational message. But, granted, we ran out of meat for the last dozen guests, and that must be fixed. Also, the hotel had no room for more tables.

We had a picnic in a beautiful location with the best antenna farm you could imagine. 32 folks attended. How could it be better.

We allocated \$2,450 for DXpeditions to Tokelau and Swains Islands. Club record. And club member, AG4W, took part in the CQWW contest from the Cape Verde Islands and will journey to Swains next March.

I've heard comments regarding the meeting location. Granted, the menu is limited. But the service has been consistent and we've gotten the private room every single time. No venue over the past 15 years has done so well. But please let me know if you have better ideas.

Now I'd like to take a moment to list the members who rose to present forums at our meetings this year. If your name isn't on the list, ask yourself if it could be. I don't have a program yet for January (hint, hint).

January	A Poor Man's TDR, Bob, K8KI
February	Lightning and Grounding, Dr Monte Bateman, WB5ZRX
March	A Good Enough Low Band Antenna, Mark Brown, N4BCD
April	Calibrating a Bird 43 Wattmeter, Dr John Stensby, N5DF
May	The Formative Years of SSB, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY
June	Space Weather, Dr Ghee Fry, WL7C
July	Zen and the Art of Radio Maintenance, Chuck Lewis, N4NM
August	Bucket Lists: Think Big, Steve Werner, AG4W
September	Upgraded Shack and Antenna Farm, Bruce Smith, AC4G
October	Ham Shacks of NADXC, Kelley Johns, W4VPG
November	Contesting from D4C, Cape Verde, Steve Werner, AG4W
December	DXer of the Year

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, December 10, at TerraNova, which is in the Gigaparts shopping center. Dinner at 5:30 in the long room. See you there. There will not be a program, but we will award DX'er of the Year for 2019 and talk about the new year.

Christmas Party



November Meeting Minutes

By Chris Reed, AI4U NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

November 12th meeting of the North Alabama DX was called to order by President Bob DepPerre, K8KI at 6:20pm.

A motion was made to approve the minutes published in the Longpath. The motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the Financial report. The motion carried.

Bob, K8KI covered DX worked by the members and announced some of the upcoming DX.

Election of Officers for 2020

Dr. John Stensby, N5DF gave the election committee report:

The proposed slate of officers is Bob DePierre, K8KI for President, Steve Molo KI4KWR for Vice-President, Chris Reed, and AI4U for Secretary-Treasurer.

Dr. Stensby was assisted with the election proceedings by Tom Duncan, KG4CUY. Nominations from the floor

were requested. Hearing none, a motion was made to close the nomination and elect the proposed slate of officers. The same procedure was followed for the election of directors. Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI, Tom Duncan, KG4CUY and Steve Werner, AG4W were elected by acclamation.

The nominating committee consisted of Dr. Stensby, N5DF, Art Davis, N4UC and Ghee Fry, W7LC.

A vote was held by secret ballot for Dxer of the year. The winner will be announced at the December meeting.

Old Business

The 2019 NADXC December meeting will be Tuesday, December 10th at 6:30pm at Terranova's near Gigaparts. Arrive early, by 530pm so we get the food orders in quickly due to the anticipated crowd.

The DX quiz was won by Bruce, AC4G.

The next meeting of the North Alabama DX club will be December 10, 2019 at 6:30pm at Terranova's on Paramount Drive near Gigaparts.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

The program was D4C DXpedition experiences at Cape Verde given by participant and member Steve Werner, AG4W.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris, AI4U

Treasurer's Report for November:

November 1st Balance	10,962.32
Outgoing Wire Transfers	
11/6	-2,145.00
11/6	-45.00
Incoming PayPal 11/14	30.08
Picnic Reimbursement	-50.00
Dxer plaque	-54.49
December 1st Balance	\$8,697.91

The Christmas Eve 'Phone Caper of 1906

By the LongPath Staff

The British and U.S. Navies and Guglielmo Marconi shared a vision of the then-newfangled wireless technology serving to maintain communications between ship and shore over the entire planet, all the time. Ship-to-ship communications would be gravy. But back in the first decade of the 20th century wireless communications was via "damped wave" signals produced by exciting an LC tank circuit on the transmit side, and received using a Branly coherer or some equally crude detector. Very few 599's were given out in those days. The over-the-air lingua franca was some sort of dot-dash code—not yet "cw" because of the damped waves, and a mixture of continental and international Morse and who knows what else.

Enter Reginald Fessenden, who had worked for the US Weather Bureau and was by 1902 employed by the newly-created National Electric Signaling Company in Washington, DC. According to Fessenden's deathbed account of 1932, sometime between 1900 and 1906 the first amplitude-modulated voice signal was sent from near Plymouth, MA to ships at sea on Christmas Eve. Ships had been told three days earlier to listen for something astounding that night, and we can well imagine how operators used to the raspy code sound would have had a hard time believing their ears. We must of course suspend our disbelief to fully accept this story, for several reasons, but it's a great story nonetheless.



Hats off then to Reginald Fessenden, purveyor of but one of the miracles of the season.

DX Contests for December

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

ARRL Ten Meter Contest, (SSB & CW), 10 meters only

Dec. 14, 0000Z to Dec. 15, 2359Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus State/Province;
DX: RS(T) + Ser. #

See page 63, Dec. QST and
www.arrl.org/10-meter

Russian 160 Meter Contest (CW/SSB) 160 meters

Dec. 20, 2000Z to 2359Z

Exchange: RS(T)+ Serial #; Russian
Stns: RST + Oblast

See page 63, Dec. QST and
www.qrz.ru/contest

Croatian CW Contest, (CW), 160 – 10 meters

Dec. 21, 1400Z to Dec. 22 1400Z

Exchange: RST + SER. #

See page 63, Dec. QST and
www.9acw.org

OK DX RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80 – 10 meters

Dec 21, 0000Z to Dec. 21, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus CQ Zone
See page 63, Dec. QST and
www.crk.cz

RAEM Contest (CW), 80-10 meters

Dec. 22, 0000Z to 1200Z

Exchange: Serial # plus Lat/Long,
(e.g., 57N 85E)

See page 63, Dec. QST and
www.srr.ru/en/main

DARC Christmas Contest, (CW & SSB), 75/80 & 40 meters

Dec. 26, 0830Z to 1059Z

Exchange: RS(T) [+DOK or special
code for DL]

See page 63, Dec. QST or
www.darc.de

Worldwide Iron Ham contest (CW, SSB, & DIG), 80-10 meters

Dec. 26, 1200Z to Dec. 27, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus CQ Zone

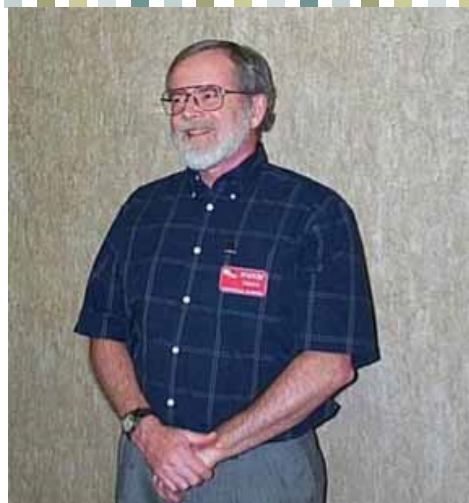
See: page 69, Dec. QST and
www.ironham.com.br/?page_id=22

RAC Winter Contest (CW & PHONE), 160-2 meters

Dec 28, 0000Z to 2359Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus Serial No.; VEs
send RS(T) plus Province

See page 63, Dec. QST and
www.rac.ca



Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge, (CW), 160 meters

Dec. 28, 1500Z to Dec. 29, 1500Z

Exchange: 4 Char. Grid square

See page 63, Dec. QST and
www.kknnet/stew

OTHERS

EUCW 160m Contest,

2000Z- 2300Z, Jan 4; and 0400Z to
0700Z, Jan 5

Dates & times often change or are mis-
printed in the journals; beware.

See also: [http://
www.contestcalendar.com//
contestcal.html](http://www.contestcalendar.com//contestcal.html)

Chuck, N4NM

The LongPath Staff

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Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

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Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Chris Reed, AI4U, Minutes

Bob De Pierre, K8KI, From the President

Thank You, Contributors

The LongPath staff wishes to thank
Chuck Lewis, N4NM, Chris Reed, AI4U,
and Bob DePierre, K8KI for their
monthly LongPath contributions. While
this may be a magical time of year,
certainly LongPath contributions don't
write themselves as if by magic, though
at times their writers no doubt wish
they would. On behalf of the entire
NADXC, we thank you!

NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Bob De Pierre, K8KI
Vice President	Warren Alford, K4MMW
Secretary/	Chris Reed, AI4U
Treasurer	
At-large	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI
Directors	Tom Duncan, KG4CUY